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BOOK REVIEWS

Die Entwicklung der deutschen Volkswirtschaftslehre in neunzehnten Jahrhundert: Gustav Schmoller zursiebenzigsten Wiederkehr seines Geburtstages, 24 Juni 1908, in Verehrung dargebracht. 2 volumes. (Leipzig: Duncker und Humblot, 1908. 25 m.)

The recurring appearance of literary memorials, designed to mark some personal or institutional anniversay, is a forcible reminder that economic science as well as its devotees is attaining the dignity of years. There is no serious shock in recalling that 1910 is the centennial year of the publication of Ricardo's first book, nor that a cautious reserve has at last deemed the interval separating us from the events of John Stuart Mill's life sufficient to permit the publication of his correspondence. But to be brought face to face with the fact that Gustav Schmoller, that lusty young champion of economic *Historismus*, has attained his seventy-second birthday, is a highly disturbing suggestion of the progress of time.

The Festschrift, which some forty friends and former students of the celebrant have united in producing, is distinctly more notable than many of its prototypes. In sheer mass—two stout volumes, each of more than seven hundred octavo pages—the present work is impressive. But in plan and in content lie its distinctive virtues. The ordinary commemorative volume, as we know by mournful experience, is a meaningless aggregate of miscellaneous bi-products, possessing no great merit in themselves and even less correlation to one another.

The editors of the present undertaking have conceived their task in a more ambitious spirit and have sought to bring forth something which, while no less eloquent in its message of affection and reverence, should at the same time constitute a notable contribution to the science itself. With this in view, the progress of eco-

nomic science in Germany during the nineteenth century, virtually the span of Schmoller's life, was taken as the theme, and the arrangement of a systematic economic treatise was followed as the plan.

We have thus a coöperative *System*, differing, however, from the usual type in that each chapter, instead of being an exposition of the subject of which it treats, is an historical account of the development of economic thought in the century just ended, with respect thereto. The analogy would be thus less Schönberg's *Handbuch* than Bloch's *Progrès*. Presumably for some other reason than to facilitate the striking off of *Abdrücke*, there is no consecutive pagination, but each contribution is numbered independently, and an index to the work is entirely absent.

The contributors include many of the names whom economic students the world over delight to honor—each represented by a chapter upon the particular subject of economic inquiry with which he is primarily associated. Thus among the twenty contributors to Volume I (Economic Theory) Lexis writes on Method, Diehl on Value, Wieser on Production, Spiethoff on Capital, von Inama-Sternegg on Rent, Altmann on Money, Schumacher on Banking, Wilbrandt on Distribution, Bernhard on Wages, Wirminghaus on Consumption, Tonnies on Sociology. A pleasing internationalism is given by chapters on the influence of Germany upon the economic thought of other lands,—Gide writing as to France, Graziani as to Italy, Farnam as to America, while Ashley reprints his address given at the Leicester meeting of the British Association.

Volume II, dealing with what we are accustomed to term "Applied Economics", presents a no less imposing array: Grünberg and Wygodzinsky on Agriculture; Sander, Troeltsch and Waentig on Labor Problems; Eulenburg on Trade; Rathgen and Keibel on Protection; Wiedenfeld on Transportation; Ballod on Colonies; von Phillipovich on Socialism; Gnauck-Kuhne on Woman; Fuchs on Housing; Grotjahn on Social Hygiene; Zahn and Moldenhauer on Insurance; Seibt on Statistics; Gerlach, Heckel and Schanz on Finance.

In quality the contributions, while disclosing an inevitable variety, are much superior to the perfunctory studies that are ordinarily made to serve such purposes. Here and there a paper is a clear rechauffé of crass materials, or suggests a hurried unwork-manlike composition; but this is much the exception. Taken in entirety, the testimonial is not only an impressive contribution to the scientific preëminence and intellectual influence of the great figure to whom it is inscribed, but, in quite detached estimate, it is an immensely valuable survey, even though a partial one, of the progress of our science in its modern era.

JACOB H. HOLLANDER.

Johns Hopkins University.

La France Économique et Sociale, à la Veille de la Révolution. Les Campagnes. By Maxime Kovalewsky. (Paris: V. Giard and E. Briere, 1909. Pp. 329. 9 fr. net.)

The work before us, in its carefulness, sanity, and thoroughness gives one of the best pictures of the causes of the French Revolution and of the economic condition of France in the century preceding, which have come to the notice of the present reviewer. Even where M. Kovalwesky's conclusions conform to those of previous writers, he has frequently given us much wider proof from original sources than is customary in works of this sort. He has gone much further afield for local and especially parish records than is the case with nearly all of the writers on this period, and he has also made skillful use of the *cahiers*.

The author gives a remarkably vivid picture, first, of the rise of the commercial wealth; then, of the concentration of this wealth in the hands of the bankers and farmers-general; the invasion of the nobility by these classes through the purchase of offices, civil or ecclesiastical; the amalgamation of these classes with the higher nobility through intermarriage; the exemption of the nobles and the higher clergy from taxation; and the ever accelerating rate of the concentration of ownership of capital, land, and public office. He makes out a clear case of the power of wealth, more particularly concentrated wealth, to exploit the masses of the people. The invasion of the ranks of the nobility by the rich commercial classes gave a social value to land, especially in view of the heavy burden laid by the government on land and the transfer of titles, such as to make it impossible for the poorer people, whether peasants or